



A new freight train service from Xiamen to Moscow is a key part of the China-Europe freight train route.

## Port platform pushes greater and wider business cooperation

By LIANG KAIYAN  
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Xiamen Port of Fujian in East China has demonstrated the burgeoning trade cooperation among the province and international partners in speeding up the development of maritime transportation.

A shipping consortium in the port set up a new platform to aid in shipping development last December.

The platform, known as Silk Road Shipping, was jointly initiated by Xiamen Port Holding Group, Fujian Provincial Communication Transportation Group, China COSCO Shipping Group, and other carriers and logistics service providers from home and abroad to provide trade services among Belt and Road Initiative economies.

"The long history of trade and cultural exchanges between Fujian province and Southeast Asia has given Xiamen Port a unique advantage in developing its cooperation in shipping," said Fu Rurong, deputy director of Xiamen Development and Reform Commission.

Added with the advantage of the 21st Maritime Silk Road, Xiamen has logistics channels to more than 30 cities in 12 Asian and European countries, Fu said.

"We regard Xiamen Port as a pilot and a new model in providing high-quality shipping service," he said.

Data from the administration bureau of Xiamen Port show that the alliance had opened 34 shipping routes by the end of March and provided 269 ship services along those routes, handling more than 210,000 containers, up 10.35 percent year-on-year.

Chen Zhiping, chairman of Xiamen Port Holding Group, said the platform aims at increasing the investment in infrastructure and enhancing its service ability based on the province's development as a core area of Silk Road.

As the first international logistics platform featuring shipping based on the BRI, the operators have launched activities to attract trade partners in shipping and logistics from around the world.

To date, the platform has been welcomed by over 60 supply chain parties including major international container shipping operators.

ZIM, an Israel-based leading carrier in the global container shipping industry, has seen the increasing market opportunities along the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

Chen Zhiqin, general manager of the Xiamen branch of ZIM in China, said the platform has attracted the attention of all shipping companies.

"With the promotion of the BRI, the platform has helped to connect logistics and resources



The plane fleet of Xiamen Airlines.

The long history of trade and cultural exchanges between Fujian province and Southeast Asia has given Xiamen Port a unique advantage in developing its cooperation in shipping."

Fu Rurong, deputy director of Xiamen Development and Reform Commission

### 30+ cities

in 12 Asian and European countries have logistics channels with Xiamen

among parties, and also facilitated the implementation of preferential policies," Chen said.

Wu Shunbin, head of the administration bureau of Xiamen Port, said, "Sea routes have no fixed entities and we can only win more markets by service and innovation."

In the first quarter of 2019, authorities of the ports in Xiamen and Fuzhou have rolled out 10 standards on offering services related to shipping, waterway management and container transferring, to increase the transportation efficiency.

Hu Yubin, deputy general manager of the operating company of the platform, said, "With the promotion of the platform, works have been consistently implemented."

In March, Xiamen Port was temporarily closed five times because of foggy weather, Hu said, adding that during the period, the platform helped six ships to dock at and leave the port thanks to the upgraded services.

At present, the platform has confirmed sea routes covering ports in cities including Manila of the Philippines, Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam and Tanjung Pelepas of Malaysia. In future, the platform aims to create a standard operational system to complement China-Europe freight trains and to promote the connectivity of land and sea logistics along the BRI.

Cai Liqun, deputy general manager of the Xiamen Port Holding, said establishing such a platform aims to provide comprehensive transportation service through collaboration with businesses and manufacturing companies, so as to help domestic companies develop in overseas markets and attract investment from port cities along the BRI.

# FUJIAN SPLASHES OUT WITH INVESTMENTS IN MARITIME SILK ROAD

Province builds infrastructure, helps companies invest abroad and ramps up cultural exchanges, **Liang Kaiyan** reports.



The view of Fuzhou, capital of East China's Fujian province, which is one of the most livable cities in China with a good natural environment and solid economic foundation. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Having played a role in the ancient Silk Road, Fujian province is broadening construction to develop itself into a core part of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

In recent years, the province has used connectivity, trade cooperation, mechanism innovation and cultural exchanges, in an effort to boost construction with high-quality development, said Ye Feiwen, deputy director of Fujian Development and Reform Commission.

In 2018, the province built 181 berths for vessels of more than 10,000 metric tons. Port cargo had a handling capacity of 561 million tons, according to Ye.

In addition, the province launched 176 freight trains between China and Europe in 2018.

In that same year, its airports opened a total of 73 international air routes, transporting 49.45 million trips. So far, the province has launched 406 freight trains between China and Europe in total.

It has also completed a satellite data service center, providing service for data receiving, storage, processing and distribution in real time.

It has also set up nine collaborative industrial parks in countries, such as Kenya, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Focusing on international trade cooperation, Fujian province has held the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Exposition and the Cross-strait Fair for Economy and Trade for 20 consecutive sessions.

The fair has become a crucial platform for international trade cooperation as well as promoting the Belt and Road Initiative and the province's efforts in building itself as a core area of the Maritime Silk Road, Ye said.

The province has also encouraged

local companies to develop in overseas markets with guidance and financial support.

In 2018, there were a total of 194 Fujian companies investing abroad. Their investments were worth 5.52 billion yuan (\$803.2 million), up 57 percent year-on-year, local official said.

Zijin Mining, a local company, has expanded its businesses at home and abroad. The company said it had invested in mines involving copper, zinc and gold in 18 Chinese provinces and 11 foreign countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Russia and Papua New Guinea.

In 2018, official data showed imports and exports between Fujian province and the countries and regions along the BRI amounted to 394.62 billion yuan. This was an increase of 10.7 percent over the previous year.

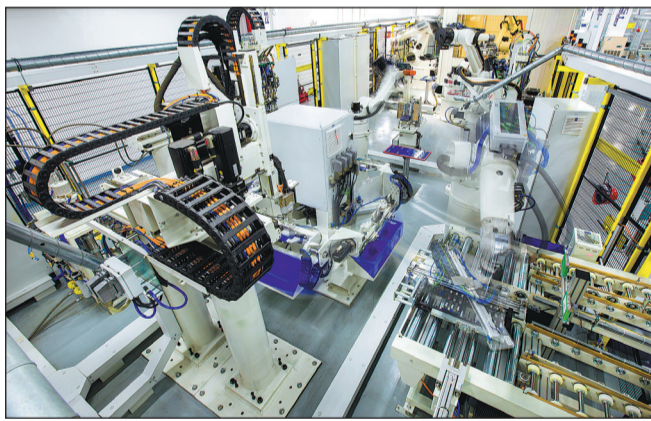
As a coastal province in East China, Fujian's offshore fishing industry is well developed.

At present, the province has a total of 30 companies engaged in offshore fishing businesses. It has set up nine bases abroad totaling more than 13,333.33 hectares.

In recent years, the province has held events in cities including Fuzhou, Xiamen and Pingtan county to discuss the development of the ocean industry with insiders from around the world.

With abundant cultural resources the province has ramped up cultural exchanges over the past few years. Its assets include the UNESCO site Gulangyu island and several intangible cultural heritages, such as the music of Nanyin.

It has launched several international activities featuring art, film and tourism. Platforms have been established to promote Fujian cultures in countries,



Clockwise from above: The Xiamen Port is expected to handle 20 million containers per year by 2035. Staff members check facilities at the production line of a global company in Fujian. The automatic production line of the lithium-ion battery provider CATL.

The province will expand overseas markets by increasing the export of self-brand products and developing service trade."

Ye Feiwen, deputy director of Fujian Development and Reform Commission

### 394.62 billion yuan

imports and exports between Fujian province and the countries and regions involved in the BRI last year

such as Malaysia, Australia, Japan and Argentina. To date, Fujian has established relationships with 105 sister cities and provinces in countries including Russia, the Philippines and Mauritania.

Along with cultural exchanges, provincial universities and companies have expanded their cooperation with international partners to strengthen communication in education.

In 2016, Xiamen University opened its Malaysian campus. It has attracted more than 4,000 students from 17 countries and regions.

NetDragon Websoft Holdings, a leading Chinese internet firm, has established partnerships with the education sector in more than 20 countries involved in BRI.

The company has joined hands with

the governments of Nigeria and Kenya to develop digital education services.

The company has extended its educational technologies cooperation to countries including Russia, Singapore, Finland and the United States. This is part of its effort to promote sharing of educational resources around the world.

In a bid to advance international cooperation, the province has made efforts in mechanism innovation.

Over the past year, the province has rolled out 54 innovation measures to speed up the construction of its pilot free trade zone.

Moreover, it has enhanced information sharing, management and enforcement of customs in cooperation with Singapore and China's Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macao.

To enhance its business environment, finance and supervision services, Fujian has taken a leading role in merging the functions of zones. They include a national innovation demonstration zone, a national ecological civilization pilot area and a comprehensive experimental area.

In response to the 21st Marine Silk Road, the province will continue to deepen cooperation in keeping with the BRI. This includes connectivity ranging from aviation, maritime navigation and modern information to land transport.

"The province will expand overseas markets by increasing the export of self-brand products and developing service trade. It also plans to promote the digital economy in international markets," Ye said.

For people-to-people communication and exchanges, the province will use its cultural resources.

Especially in the fields of traditional Chinese medicine and international education, Ye added.

### Quanzhou's Citong Port subject of a one-of-a-kind 3D film

Quanzhou city in East China's Fujian province is a notable hub of the ancient Maritime Silk Road and many Chinese-made ceramics were exported as a key commodity through the city's Citong Port several centuries ago that witnessed the prosperity of the trade route.

A 3D film titled *The Dream of Maritime Silk Road* has reproduced the bustling and thriving sights of the port 800 years ago and depicted the integration and exchanges of eastern and western civilizations. It premiered in last December in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian.

The film was supervised by the Fujian provincial Department of Culture and Tourism and performed by the Fujian Opera and Dance Drama Theater. It is the first of its kind in the province themed on the ancient Maritime Silk Road.

Adapted from a dance drama of the same name, the film tells a story of two generations of a sailor family in Fujian chasing their dreams of sailing overseas and developing a new sailing route.

Xing Shimiao, director of the dance drama, said the ancient Silk Road usually conjures up images of wind, deserts and camels. But when it comes to the Maritime Silk Road, it is a different story. The drama's plot revolves around a commercial fleet in Quanzhou. The captain of the fleet, A Hai, is invited by a Persian prince to develop a new sailing route. During the voyage, the fleet is struck by a storm and the captain sacrifices his life to save the prince. His wife raises their son, Xiao Hai, alone and 20 years later the son follows his father to become a captain.

The ancient Maritime Silk Road, which ran from China through Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean to Europe, took shape about the time of the Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC) and reached its peak during the Song (960-1279), Yuan (1271-1368) and Ming (1368-1644) dynasties.

The 90-minute film showcases many ethnic cultural items like wooden stool dance of southern Fujian and glutinous rice balls hand-made technologies of Quanzhou, as well as abacus dance, marionettes and the Gaojia Opera, one of major Fujian operas famous for its various clown roles.

Production of the film aimed to carry out China's strategic concepts regarding the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road, develop the province's oceanic culture and better serve and participate in the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative.



*The Dream of Maritime Silk Road* reproduces the bustling and thriving sights of the Quanzhou port 800 years ago.

## Free trade zone in the vanguard of China's reform and opening-up, innovation

By WANG JINHUI  
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Approved by the State Council in 2014, the China (Fujian) Pilot Free Trade Zone is built as a test bed for reform and innovation, aiming to boost cross-Straits links and promote economic ties between Fujian and economies involved in the Belt and Road Initiative.

The FTZ, covering a total of 118.04 square kilometers, consists of three areas — Pingtan area, Xiamen area and Fuzhou area.

It has strived to accelerate high-quality development through piloting new practices, providing a good investment environment, cross-Straits integration and advanced management since its operation in 2015.

To date, the zone has launched 186 key tasks and 378 innovative measures and built a batch of new platforms in sectors such as Silk Road Maritime transport, financial leasing and internet of things.

It is home to 3,891 overseas enterprises including Fortune



The China (Fujian) Pilot Free Trade Zone serves a platform to promote economic cooperation between Fujian and the countries and regions involved in the Belt and Road Initiative.

Global 500 companies such as Shell, Amazon and ABB. To create a business-friendly environment for entrepreneurs and startups, the zone has simplified procedures for administrative examination and approval.

For example, the application materials for investment projects in the Pingtan area have been reduced by more than 90 percent

and the approval time for engineering projects in the Xiamen area has decreased by some 50 percent.

To better protect intellectual property rights, the zone has set up an integrated management system and a circuit court dealing with civil, administrative and criminal affairs.

The zone is also advancing cross-border trade and improving clear-

ance efficiency by establishing an international service system. In 2018, the container throughput in Xiamen Port reached more than 10 million twenty-foot equivalent units.

Based on its geographic advantages and economic foundation, the zone has established a new model for cross-Straits development in various aspects including investment, trade, assets and personnel exchanges.

It is actively exploring ways to develop the region into a preferred destination for Taiwan residents and businesses on the Chinese mainland.

The zone has introduced a batch of Taiwan-founded projects in more than 20 sectors such as the finance, tourism and film and set up platforms to strengthen industrial cooperation.

It has opened up a cross-Straits inspection and quarantine data exchange center to facilitate trade and simplify the requirements for the submission of certificates of origin for imported goods under the

Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement. Last year, 50 percent of food from Taiwan and 80 percent of its fruits entered the Chinese mainland through Xiamen Port.

In the financial industry, the zone has built a trial base for the capital project management of the Taiwan-funded enterprises and transacted \$342 million in business for Taiwan enterprises.

A total of 21 financial institutions from Taiwan have based their operations in Fujian, including six banks.

The zone has accepted practitioner certificates from Taiwan and set up 11 entrepreneurship and innovation bases for young people, attracting more than 500 Taiwan enterprises and some 2,400 Taiwan residents.

It has also built more than 30 exhibition and marketing platforms for import goods from countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative.

To date, the Taiwan-Fujian-Europe freight train has opened 34 routes and operated a total of 450

trains with cargo value amounting to 8 billion yuan (\$1.17 billion).

Yu Weiguo, Party chief of Fujian province, said while fully implementing the 31 preferential policies and 66 measures, Fujian has put forward 42 new measures to enhance economic and trade links, boosted mutual exchanges of energy and resources, promoted the mutual application of industrial standards, and provided the same service to Taiwan residents as those on the mainland.

Fujian will put forward more policies and measures according to the needs of Taiwan residents and businesses so they can better enjoy the opportunities and achievements of Fujian's development, Yu said.

The zone has launched the "internet plus governance" plan and introduced a series of innovative measures to accelerate the reform of management models.

It has built a public notification system for enterprises' information and credit.

The zone is also aiming to upgrade its industrial structure and

promote high-quality development by combining financial innovation with the prosperity of the real economy, insisting on the improvement of mechanisms and cultivating a series of new platforms.

One example is the industrial base for Fuzhou's internet of things, which is listed as a national-level demonstration zone with 156 key enterprises in the sector.

Another is the maintenance base for Xiamen Airlines, a world-class one-stop service center for aviation maintenance.

The output value of the center accounts for 25 percent of the country's total.

The film base in Pingtan has attracted 81 renowned enterprises and is home to more than 1,400 financial leasing enterprises.

Recently, the Department of Commerce of Fujian Province and Xiamen University established China's first FTZ research institution to boost cooperation and communication, cultivate professionals and offer support for the high-quality development of the area.

## Region's overseas Chinese continue to boost BRI metropolis' pilot area

By WANG JINHUI

Fujian's overseas Chinese are playing a vital role in boosting the business and cultural communication between China and the world under the country's Belt and Road Initiative, a senior official said.

Chen Shihai, chairman of the Fujian Provincial Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese and member of the CPPCC National Committee, said overseas Chinese have made great contributions to the country's foreign trade and cultural exchanges over the country's history.

As the starting point of the Maritime Silk Road in ancient times, Fujian was home to many merchants who sailed thousands of miles away to do business in global markets, Chen said.

The Chinese dancing drama *The Dream of Maritime Silk Road* tells the story of a Quanzhou merchant in the province who traveled to West-

ern Asian countries some 800 years ago to exchange goods and cultures, overcoming harsh natural conditions.

Overseas Chinese are forerunners of the "Fujian spirit", which is "patriotic, inclusive, helpful and arduous struggling," Chen added.

"In the new era, we should gather the wisdom and strength of overseas Chinese at home and abroad and further push forward the reform and opening-up," said Chen, adding that overseas Chinese will try hard to make the Maritime Silk Road a platform for transport, business cooperation, cultural communication and exchanges for youth.

In recent years, Fujian has strived to popularize Chinese food, Chinese medicine and Kung Fu in overseas markets.

"Fujian is an important place of origin for people in China's Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. We will exert great efforts to bring together

the strength of compatriots across the Taiwan Strait, Hong Kong and Macao to boost the country's Belt and Road Initiative," Chen said.

Chen added that overseas Chinese are familiar with local conditions and serve as the bridge for the cultural communication between China and other countries.

"On the one hand, overseas Chinese could invest in the construction of their hometowns and help to support the industrial development and infrastructure in developing countries along the Belt and Road Initiative.

"On the other hand, they will play an active role in constructing global business cooperative parks and promoting the friendship and exchanges with cities around the world."

Fujian is also aiming to build China's first shipping platform for international integrated logistics services and form a new channel of maritime logistics.